system like that of Europe and America was constructed and much of the literature of the West put into Japanese. In economic life, the beginning was made of that amazing industrialization which latterly has proceeded apace, with factories, railroads, and a merchant marine of steam craft. More quickly than any other non-Occidental people, the Japanese adapted themselves to the new day and achieved admission to the family of Western nations.

The greater success with which the Japanese accepted the Oc-i' cident does not prove them superior in ability to the Chinese. China is so much larger that her task is much more difficult. The Japanese, too, had the tradition of learning from foreigners: they had adopted and adapted Chinese civilization, and most important movements in thought and culture in China had had repercussions in Japan. On the other hand, except for Buddhism, the Chinese had consciously learned little from any one: they regarded themselves as teachers, not pupils. Japan, regimented under the Tokugawa Shoguns, was more easily directed by those in favor of Westernization once they had obtained control than was China, for the latter was not by tradition so closely coordinated.

In Japan, moreover, there was a tradition that the Emperor reigned but did not govern and that the imperial house was too sacrosant to be disturbed. The institution of the Emperor formed a "center of unity and the government could be altered without abolishing it. In China much more in practice depended on the Emperor, and if he proved incompetent rebellion against him might be justified. Dynasties had changed many times. When, in

1912, in conformity to this tradition the Ch'ing passed the way of its predecessors, the unity and peace of the nation were shaken to their foundations.

Long before 1894 the new Japan had begun to clash with China. In 1871 a treaty between the two countries was signed on a reciprocal basis, without some of the concessions, so galling to the Chinese, contained in the current treaties with Western pow-ers. About the same time, however, trouble arose over the Liu Ch'iu (Ryu Kyu) Islands—which paid tribute to China and were also claimed by the Japanese. In 1871 some inhabitants of the islands were killed by aborigines on Formosa (Taiwan). The Japanese raised the question of China's responsibility, and upon